



## FY 18-19 Climate Change Research Program

### SOLICITATION FAQ

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document represents key information and inquiry responses provided to potential applicants for the FY 2018-2019 (Round 2) funding round of the Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Climate Change Research Program. The questions and answers published below provide clarification and additional details on the Climate Change Research Program's Round 2 Solicitation and application process.

For additional questions and inquiries regarding the Climate Change Research Program, please email the Strategic Growth Council at [research@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:research@sgc.ca.gov). Answers to questions received in this inbox will be answered via email through the November 9<sup>th</sup> submission deadline.

Questions are organized as follows:

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## DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### PROGRAM GOALS

**Greenhouse gases are specifically called out in the solicitation—are projects that reduce other toxic pollutants, such as NO<sub>x</sub>, eligible?**

Proposals must show potential for significant GHG emissions reductions, but proposals that also reduce other toxic pollutants are good examples of how to include other benefits to priority populations.

**When considering disadvantaged communities, should proposals focus solely on California, or global communities?**

The proposal's projects and activities should be focused on priority populations. However, applicants should include how the proposed technology(ies) could benefit priority populations globally when describing the potential for replicability and scalability in the proposal narrative.

**What are the expectations for partnerships and community engagement?**

Applicants should demonstrate and build off already established partnerships with different types of organizations. Applicants should design proposals that use these partnerships to ensure that technological innovations from SGC's investments are directed towards priority populations and provide direct and indirect benefits to them.

**Do applicants need to quantify potential GHG emissions reductions?**

SGC recognizes that the true potential for GHG emissions reductions may not be known for a specific technology until the end of the grant period and the completion of the R&D process. However, applicants should provide estimates for potential GHG emissions reductions, based on knowledge of the technology and associated research field.

**Will the SGC be fostering potential collaborations for applicants?**

SGC does not have a formal process in place for connecting interested individuals/organizations. SGC will do its best to connect individuals and organizations who are working on similar issues and have similar goals.

### TECHNOLOGY READINESS

**Is there a minimum number of projects that must demonstrate a technology reaching Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 7 or above?**

At least one project in the portfolio described in the proposal must have a technology or system that reaches TRL 7 by the end of the grant period.

### RESEARCH INNOVATION FIELDS

**Would the SGC consider proposals within these research innovation fields that are not specifically called out in the solicitation?**

The highlighted topics described in the research innovation fields are areas that SGC is interested in funding. However, SGC will consider any innovation within one of the fields. If applicants wish to propose a technology within an innovation field that was not identified in the solicitation, applicants should explain how and why their innovation(s) achieves all the desired outcomes of the solicitation.



## CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM - ROUND 2 SOLICITATION

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**Does the SGC have a percentage threshold for proposal that must meet the definition of a priority population? For example, “2/3 of units must be located in census tracts that are at or below 80% of median household income.”**

SGC does not have specific thresholds in regards to priority populations described in the solicitation, only that the proposal provides direct and indirect benefits to these priority populations. SGC encourages applicants to think holistically about how their project(s) will provide these benefits.

## AWARD INFORMATION

### FUNDING AVAILABILITY

**Are only innovation center grants being awarded this round? Or is the SGC awarding other types of research grants (e.g. project and partnership grants)?**

SGC is only awarding Research Innovation Center Grants in this round of funding.

**Does a Research Innovation Center Grant refer to the creation of a new Center, or could an existing Center or Institute within an Institution fulfill this function?**

SGC is not intending to fund the creation of a new “innovation center.” SGC is interested in investing in existing institutions that are already conducting research and development that advances innovations in clean technology/sustainable systems in one or more of the research innovation fields outlined in the solicitation. The Research Innovation Center Grant is meant to be an organizing principle for the projects in the portfolio.

**Are there any restrictions to leverage funding?**

Leverage funding is encouraged, and in-kind support is an acceptable form of leverage funding. All matching funds must be included in the budget and clearly identified as other funding sources used to complete the project. Additionally grantees will be responsible to verify that the proposed funds or services were provided and tracked separately by the recipient, received during the agreement term, and that was at least equal to the proposed amount or percentage of total project expenditures. Finally the grantee must demonstrate the receipt of the match through supporting documents such as other funding agreements, general ledgers, invoices, receipts, timesheets, and cancelled checks.

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

**What types of institutions are eligible to be Lead Applicants, and how many applications can a Lead Applicant submit?**

The types of institutions that are eligible to be Lead Applicants are offices, campuses, centers, or organizations affiliated with the University of California, California State University, private, non-profit colleges or universities in California, any federally-funded national laboratories in California, or private, non-profit research institutions in California. Non-profit institutions can include any non-profit organization that can demonstrate previous success in conducting research.

Institutions can only submit two proposals as Lead Applicants. Subsidiaries of institutions are allowed to be Lead Applicants, as long as they serve under the authority of the eligible institution. However, an application from a subsidiary will count as a proposal from the eligible institution. For example, a center at a University may apply, but this would count as a proposal from the University.



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Researchers and other employees can serve as a Lead-PI or co-PI on up to two proposals. In the event that an individual exceeds the PI proposal limit, proposals received within the limit will be accepted based on earliest date and time of proposal submission (i.e. the first two proposals received prior to the deadline will be accepted and the remainder will be returned without review).

#### **What types of organizations are eligible to be Co-Applicants, and how many applications can a Co-Applicant participate in?**

Any organization can be a co-applicant on a proposal, and there is no limit to how many proposals an organization can participate in as a co-applicant/partner. SGC strongly encourages partnerships with non-traditional research partners to develop and promote a holistic approach towards research and development in one of the Research Innovation Fields. Examples of possible non-traditional research partners include, but are not limited to:

- Community-based organizations—including civic, community, and advocacy groups
- Federal research agencies and departments—such as NOAA, USGS, etc.
- Local government agencies, departments, and organizations—including land use and health agencies
- Non-profit organizations—including conservation, environmental justice, and natural resource groups
- Open space landowners and recreation providers
- Private sector businesses
- Regional agencies—focused on transportation, resources, and infrastructure
- Regional climate collaboratives
- Tribal governments

In order to avoid conflicts of interest in proposal review and award decisions, State agencies are not eligible to provide letters of support or general statements endorsing research and development applicants or proposals. Departments also cannot be an official partner or supporter of research and development proposals. However, during the post-award phase of this program, the SGC will work with grant awardees to identify and assemble State agencies and departments with an interest in specific research and development project portfolios. The SGC intends to build a collaborative support system with its member agencies that provides awarded research and development proposals with data, information, input, advice, feedback, and technical assistance—such as commercialization assistance—requested by a Lead PI to conduct research, address research questions, ensure meaningful engagement with stakeholders, and fully consider the potential policy outcomes of the research and development.

#### **If SGC receives more than two proposals from an eligible institution, how will they determine which proposals will eligible for review?**

In the event that an institution exceeds the two proposal limit, proposals received within the limit will be accepted based on earliest date and time of proposal submission (i.e. the first two proposals received prior to the deadline will be accepted and the remainder will be returned without review). However, SGC will consider proposals included with a letter of concurrence from a research office before proposals that did not receive a concurrence letter.



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#### **Can you elaborate on the 80% rule as outlined in Section IV A? Does this mean that the lead PI must dedicated 80% of their time to the proposal?**

The SGC requires that a specific individual must have a substantial role in managing and implementing the proposed research and development. SGC defines a substantial role as someone who will spend a minimum of *80% of their time allotted for research* on this project portfolio. This individual will serve as the manager of the entire project portfolio and the main point of contact. S/he will coordinate projects and tasks and will have the authority to implement the proposed research and development. S/he must also have strong technical and administrative knowledge in the appropriate Research Innovation Field.

Applicants and research institutions are responsible for identifying the individual serving as the primary coordinator and respondent for the grant award (dedicating 80% of their research appointment to the project). Possible candidates might include, but are not limited to, the proposal's Lead PI, a Co-PI, a center research lab manager, project manager, or other senior personnel. The proposal should demonstrate the ability of this individual to conduct technical, managerial and administrative tasks; and, have the level of responsibility and authority with the lead institution to interact directly with the State and be accountable for the progress and the success of the awarded grant project.

#### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

##### **Are there specific types of partners that SGC would want proposers to prioritize?**

Appropriate partnerships will depend on the type of grant requested and the subject area covered. SGC's goal in encouraging applicants to develop robust, diverse multi-stakeholder partnerships is to build off of connections between researchers and non-traditional research partners that can expand collective capacity in communities and ensure that the proposals are targeted towards priority populations. Examples of possible non-traditional partners are outlined in the previous section describing eligible applicants. Individuals and organizations searching for relevant partners for their proposals can reach out to SGC for advice and are also invited to join SGC's LinkedIn Group: "Climate Change Research Program Networking Hub" at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12105245>.

##### **Do proposals need to show direct benefits to disadvantaged communities in order to be eligible, or can it benefit these communities indirectly?**

Proposals and partnerships should be designed to develop technological solutions to address and facilitate achieving equitable climate outcomes in low-income and disadvantaged communities and other vulnerable populations. Some technologies in the Research Innovation Fields may not focus directly on these priority populations but would have broader benefits that would positively impact these communities over time. Such indirect benefits could be achieved through direct connection with communities and community-based organizations, replicability and scalability of technologies in priority populations, and/or other mechanisms that demonstrate how investments in research and development will be leveraged to support priority populations.

Quantifying benefits to priority populations is not required, but applicants should describe how the research and development will consider and respond to potential benefits for these communities.

##### **Can the proposed project be a project that has already begun and/or will continue afterwards?**

Ongoing projects may be eligible in some cases, but only if an SGC grant would fund a new element of the project that would be completed during the research program's timeframe, with clear deliverables that meet the criteria outlined in the solicitation, and that build on other funded research.



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#### ELIGIBLE COSTS

##### **Can you provide a definition of administrative costs?**

Administrative costs that directly apply to the accomplishment of a project in the portfolio or partnership may account for up to five (5) percent of the awarded funds. "Administration of the grant" may include, but is not limited to, activities required for processing the Grant Recipient/Partner costs, reporting, invoicing, etc. Administrative costs generally pertain to payment for staff that provide financial or administrative support that is specific to the project. Research management duties (such as project coordination, report, etc.) are part of the research and development scope and are not considered administrative costs. Administrative costs may also include, but are not limited to: staff salaries and benefits, supplies, and other resources used to administer the grant. This definition supersedes any definition of administrative costs provided by other California Climate Investment programs.

##### **Must all travel be pre-planned?**

All travel does not need to be pre-planned. However, applicants should be able to estimate the amount of travel involved and justify potential costs.

##### **Does the indirect rate cap of 25% apply to sub-recipients?**

The indirect rate cap of 25% pertains to Lead Applicants and research institutions that are required to submit actual costs. Sub-recipients, such as businesses, consultants and limited partnerships, may submit fully loaded cost rates, as long as they are allowable/acceptable to the Lead Applicant's institution.

##### **If applicants have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement established with a Federal agency (e.g. US Department of Energy), could we submit a proposal using those rates?**

Any negotiated rate agreements with federal agencies are not applicable, with the exception of federally funded laboratories in California. Applicants would need to have established an agreement with a California state agency to qualify for a rate other than the maximum described in the solicitation.

##### **How does this solicitation relate to the California Model Agreement?**

The California Model Agreement (CMA) will be used as a base template for the research program's grant agreements, but SGC retains the ability to modify any terms and conditions for the purposes of this program. Any and all changes will be noted in Exhibit G of the grant agreement. If selected, awardees will have the chance to review these modifications before signing. However, SGC strongly recommends that applicants follow the stipulations outlined in the solicitation and not the CMA.

For additional clarification, SGC would like to refer applicants to Item 29, Order of Precedence (page 13) of the CMA and the language in Exhibit G:

*While every effort has been made to keep the UTC as universal in its application as possible, there may be unique projects where a given term in the UTC may be inappropriate or inadequate. California Education Code §67327(b) allows for those terms to be changed, but only through the mutual agreement and negotiation of the State agency and the University campus. If a given term in the UTC is to be changed, the change should **not** be noted in Exhibit C, but rather noted separately in Exhibit G.*





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#### **Is the “monthly rate” in the budget sheet a maximum allowable rate for the staff person for the entire program? Or is it just a rate estimate?**

SGC cannot reimburse anything above the rates listed on the proposal budget. If applicants anticipate an increase in compensation over the course of the project, that increase should be reflected in the submitted budget. Applicants can add salary and benefits multipliers for future years, as long as multipliers are explained in the budget justification.

#### **Can you elaborate on allowable expenses for equipment vs. materials and supplies?**

Materials and supplies necessary for the creation and testing of prototype technologies/systems are reimbursable, but routine laboratory equipment purchases are not reimbursable. Equipment is defined as an item of non-expendable, tangible personal property, having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the recipient organization for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000. SGC may make exceptions to fund non-production/non-traditional equipment that is required for key parts of the research. The maximum total allowance from SGC for these equipment purchases is \$50,000, and any applicant seeking reimbursement for a specified equipment purchase(s) must provide budget justification for this purchase(s). Additionally, any equipment purchased with State funding will be vested in the State and will be subject to California Department of General Services funding guidelines in the State Administrative Manual.

#### **Will the SGC fund outreach and engagement proposals that include local stipends or similar costs as a means to incentivize participation by Disadvantaged Communities and similar groups?**

Yes, a Lead Applicant may include budget items that support meaningful community engagement as long as they are strictly used to incentivize the participation of low-income and disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations. Budget line items reflecting such costs should include clear and concise descriptions explaining the Lead PI's assumptions for providing economic incentives to attract participation and/or clear explanations that justify the need for stipends. Please note that SGC cannot approve costs that are not allowed through the State of California's contracting policy. For example, the cost of supplying food at a meeting is not reimbursable, as per the State Administrative Manual.

#### **Will the State allow for payment of tuition and fees, for graduate students? What about for non-resident fees?**

Yes, budgets can include student tuition and fees (costs charged by the University to graduate students enrolled in a program), including out-of-state student fees.

#### **Can awardees purchase things from outside of California? Can proposals have sub recipients that are located outside of California? What about outside of the US?**

Yes, entities located outside of California are eligible to be sub-recipients, including those who live outside of the US. However, any sub-recipients not located in California must be able to enter a contract with the Lead Applicant, who is responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of the State of California, including the Contractor Certification Clauses, Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and the Iran Contracting Act Certification. The diagram on page 24 of the Solicitation is meant to serve as an example of a Lead Applicant/partner relationship. It is not an exhaustive list of eligible sub-recipients.



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## PROPOSAL ORGANIZATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

### METHOD FOR DELIVERY

#### **How can applicants ensure that submissions are confidential and cannot be seen by other applicants?**

Applicants are required to register on the GRanTS application platform (<https://water.ca.gov/grants/>) in order to submit a research proposal. There are two options for registering. Applicants may register under an institution that has already been established in the system or register as a separate organization (e.g. as a center or department not currently listed). If the proposal is submitted under a pre-established institution, such as a university (which is managed by the university's Office of Research), the proposal will be viewable by all other investigators and users registered under that organization. If applicants have privacy concerns, SGC recommends that applicants establish a separate organization, allowing the applicant to control who is able to view that submission. For assistance with registering on the system or using the GRanTS application platform, please contact the GRanTS helpdesk at (888) 907-4267.

#### **Is it necessary to fill out all sections of the questionnaire?**

All sections indicated as mandatory must be completed to successfully submit a research proposal. Failure to do so will result in a submission being deemed as ineligible in the screening process. Please note that Section I, Applicant Information, and Section II, Research Proposal Information, of the questionnaire are required by the system platform. In these sections, applicants will only need to complete the required sections, and when asked about the location for proposed research, applicants can use the lead institution's billing address. See Attachment 1 of the Round 2 Solicitation for specific information.

### RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND CONTENT

#### **Is there a template/required information to use for the title page?**

SGC did not create a template for the title page of the application. However, SGC outlined the required information that applicants should include in Section V C of the solicitation. The title page must be one page and include the following information, at a minimum:

- The Lead PI's last name [hyphen] a brief (one sentence) project description
- Name, affiliation, and contact information (address, telephone, email) for each of the partner institutions
- Requested budget amount
- Proposed period for conducting research (start date/end date)
- Contact information for the following individuals responsible for executing a grant award:
  - Authorized Official: the individual with the authority to sign a contract or grant that makes it a legal binding agreement for the institution receiving a grant award.
  - Administrative Contact: the individual responsible for administrative and reporting duties related to the grant award.
  - Authorized Financial Contact: the individual responsible for any financial, accounting, or invoicing related inquiries.
- Lead PI's signature line (including printed/typed name and date)





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#### **Can you clarify what should be included in the proposal narrative? Are all the subsections under Attachment 4 of the Solicitation required?**

The narrative should detail the proposal's plan and approach to conducting R&D that will advance one of the Research Innovation Fields. At a minimum, the proposal narrative must include the following information, separated into different sections:

- A holistic description of the proposed project portfolio
- The project portfolio's potential for GHG emission reduction and replicability/scalability
- The project portfolio's benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities, as well as populations that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
- Project management structure, including partnerships, and roles and responsibilities
- Important benchmarks, milestones, and metrics to track progress

The proposal narrative should be no more than five (5) pages in length. For additional clarification regarding the information above, please see attachment 4 in the appendix of the solicitation.

Applicants do not need to use the specific sub-section language in Attachment 4, but the narrative should be organized in a way that the evaluator will understand the research objectives, approach/methodology, partnership structure, and impacts and outcomes of the proposal. SGC wants to provide as much flexibility as possible to researchers, and SGC realizes that it may receive a diverse set of proposals, both in the subjects examined and in the research scope. SGC will not be rigid about the structure of documents, but if applicants choose to deviate from the structure outlined in the solicitation, applicants must ensure that outside experts from a variety of fields can easily follow their narrative and use that information to evaluate the technical merit and meaningful engagement criteria identified in the solicitation.

#### **Does the two-page limit on project summaries apply to the entire proposal, or is it per project in the portfolio?**

The two-page limit on project summaries is per project in the portfolio. For example, a portfolio with four projects would have project summaries at a total of eight (8) pages.

#### **What kind of information would you like included on the Research Institution Deployment Profile?**

The Research Institution Deployment Profile should focus on the institution where the research and development will primarily take place and, if applicable, additional facilities or labs that possess critical testing, design, and application infrastructure. The purpose of this profile is to assist reviewers with understanding how the institution(s) is equipped to carry out the objectives and deliverables described in the proposal.

#### **Who should submit the "Letters of Support," and what should they include?**

Letters of support should come from all partners on the proposed research. Partners should provide letters of support and their involvement should be explicitly described in the narrative section of the proposal. Please note that meaningful engagement will not look the same for all projects. Applicants should refer to Section V C of the Research Investment Plan for guidance on incorporating partners into research proposals.



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#### **What information do you want for any non-profit, community organization staff, or for-profit business team partners or minor sub-recipients?**

Clearly describe the interests and expertise of key personnel and their affiliated organizations. Key personnel can be staff in the lead institution and/or partner institutions. For additional partners that have an important or unique role in a project, applicants should use the proposal narrative to describe the partnership and identify expertise, roles and responsibilities.

#### **Should the budget period be broken down by fiscal year?**

Yes, the proposed budget should align with the State's fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), so "year 1" would end on June 30, 2019.

#### **Is it allowable to use our institution's standard budget template instead of the one provided for the program?**

Yes, however, the proposal budget must identify specific amounts for any/each sub-recipient or partner and what the specific costs covered are and must not include "equipment," except for the circumstances described earlier in this document and in the language of the updated solicitation.

#### **If we estimate a certain amount of hours for each staff person, is it OK to shuffle hours between staff during the execution of the project?**

Normally budgeted payroll (except for senior personnel) is listed by payroll title, so that individuals can be used interchangeably. Please note: invoices cannot charge more for employee time than is identified in the project budget.

#### **How should specialized expertise for troubleshooting be detailed in the budget considering that we do not yet know what the troubleshooting needs will be?**

With personnel, SGC cannot increase the pay rate of individuals/titles identified after award – applicants should consider and plan for all future costs of staff. Applicants should budget for any expertise that is expected to be needed, although once the work starts applicants can revise the budget based on the needs of the work. The Parties may reallocate a project task or category budget items of up to ten percent (10%) but deviations of more than ten percent (10%) of project task or category budget items require written approval of SGC.

#### **Since projects must be closed out by June 30, 2022 and work must be completed by March 31, 2022, how do we deal with contractual obligations for spending that are tied to semesters (through end of May, typically) and need to be paid out after March 31?**

SGC will work with grant awardees to ensure that grants that have students working on the award through the spring of 2022 will be reimbursed for any budgeted student fees.

#### **The timeline for award will not work for a cohort of graduate student researchers in the first year. Is there a solution to this?**

SGC understands that graduate students normally work on annual academic cycles, making a January or February start date difficult for graduate student recruitment. Each applicant will need to decide the best way to integrate students into their proposals. For projects that do not require 36 months to complete, applicants can use July 1, 2019 as the proposal's start date. If applicants need the entire allowable time and do not have students that can move to a project in the spring semester/quarter, applicants may want to assign researcher staff for some initial tasks and prepare to integrate student effort in the summer or fall.



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#### **Is there a template for the Scope of Work?**

There is no specific template for the Scope of Work. However, the Scope of Work must include a proposal schedule that lists all products, meetings, and due dates. It should include a milestone/outcomes chart that measures results featuring technology transfer, research, outreach, and other specific milestones; as well as outcomes and benefits that will derive from conducting the research and development. All work must be scheduled for completion by March 31, 2022. For expediency of the research institution, it is recommended that institutions use the State of California's Exhibit A template for Standard Agreements to complete the Scope of Work, as this will be needed in case of award.

#### **Should resumes include the individuals listed as personnel in the partnership overview?**

Applicants should include resumes for each senior level researcher funded in the proposal, as well as any partner listed in the proposal that will serve in an academic or technical advisory role. While it is up to the applicant to determine who is and is not a senior researcher, SGC recommends that anyone with a substantial role in one or more of the projects and proposal management should be included.

## **EVALUATION AND REVIEW PROCESS**

### **TECHNICAL MERIT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#### **Are there any specific goals/foci that the SGC considers more important than others?**

There is no specific goal or focus of the Climate Change Research Program that is weighed more heavily than others. Proposals should address all seven of the program's goals outlined in the Research Investment Plan and the objectives outlined in this solicitation.

#### **Do the benefits for priority populations have to be climate-focused? Can they be health equity? Or related to contamination issues, etc.?**

Benefits for priority populations do not have to be climate-focused. Economic, environmental, and public health benefits would all respond to this threshold requirement.

#### **How are proposals with only one project reviewed? Is there a way to differentiate the narrative vs. the project summary for this type of single project portfolio?**

Regardless of the number of projects in a proposal, each proposal will be reviewed based on how well it addresses the goals of the Research Investment Plan and the specific objectives of the Round 2 Solicitation.

The proposal narrative should include a holistic description of the proposal and how it meets the program's goals, the proposal's potential for GHG emission reduction and replicability/scalability, the proposal's benefits to priority populations, the partnership structure, and any important benchmarks and metrics to track practice. The project summary should describe the technical details of the technology/system and outline a vision for eventual widespread commercialization or adoption.

#### **Does SGC reserve the right to fund parts of a proposal, or does it have to be the entire proposal?**

SGC reserves the right to fund specific components of a proposal. In this event, the Recipient and SGC's Agreement Manager will reach agreement on a reduced Scope of Work and funding amount deemed appropriate.



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## AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

### PUBLIC ACCESS TO SGC-FUNDED RESEARCH

**What form should the open-access journal articles take? Most journals allow pre-prints (i.e. the same content, but not typeset) to be posted on an institutional website. Would this satisfy the requirement?**

Assembly Bill (AB) 2192 requires that all state-funded research projects provide free and open access to final manuscripts of scholarly articles, reports, and other products resulting from the project. Both the Research Investment Plan and the Round 2 Solicitation also require that within one year of grant completion, information from the project is submitted to OPR's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Adaptation Clearinghouse. SGC has not identified a format that is needed, but since SGC is distributing public funds, the public must have complete and transparent access to all published information. SGC will work with awardees when executing a grant agreement for awarded proposals, and this will be a required deliverable in the grant agreement for awarded projects, so applicants should include the cost of open access publishing in the proposal budget.

**Since we intend to use open access publishing but results may not be submitted for review until the end of the project, and billing may not occur for 6-12 months after March 31, 2022, how will payments for publishing be handled for encumbered costs?**

SGC recommends that, where possible, applicants should submit payment when submitting published work. Also note that work can be submitted to the ICARP Clearinghouse post contract, at no charge. All publications are required to be listed in the Clearinghouse.

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND GRANT AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS

**Can the SGC pay some portion of the grant funds up front?**

By law, SGC can only enter into a Cost Reimbursement agreement, unless the Legislature specifically provides another means of contracting funds. Currently, the only exception is with federally-funded national labs. Model agreement language for DOE contracts allows for advanced payment of a portion of the work to be performed.

**Can you explain your method of grant funding disbursement?**

The lead applicant will submit invoices to the state on a quarterly basis. That institution must pay sub-recipients for any work completed on a task before submitting an invoice to SGC staff to receive reimbursement.

**What if we have personnel changes?**

SGC recommends that personnel titles be included with proposals and the salary rate. In the event that a particular staff member is no longer working on the project, their replacement will have to be of similar title and not to exceed the capped salary range.

## OTHER

**Will a recording be made available to those who could not make the pre-application webinar?**

Included with the release of this document is a link to a recording of the webinar, which interested applicants can watch.



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#### **Will you distribute a list of participants from SGC's Pre-Application Workshop/Webinar?**

SGC did not include a release statement as part of registration that would allow us to publically identify registrants of the workshops. Proposers who are searching for relevant partners for their proposals are invited to join the SGC's LinkedIn Group: "Climate Change Research Program Networking Hub" at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12105245>

#### **Will there be additional SGC NOFAs on climate research in the future?**

It is unclear at this time if future funding will be available for the Climate Change Research Program, as funding allocation depends on legislation regarding the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Budget.